THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Since India imports over 75% its crude oil requirements, concern about assurance of supplies of crude oil and very high International crude oil prices poses the difficulties in meeting targets of economic growth.

(b) and (c) *Jatropha Curcus,* a non-edible oil seed bearing plant, is found all over India. Oil from *Jatropha Curcus* has used in pesticide, soap, candles, varnish and use as lubricant, hydraulic oil etc. and also as possible feedstock for the manufacture of bio-diesel. According to the. National Oil Seeds and Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board, many State Governments, in association with the NOVOD Board, are undertaking extension measures for the cultivation of *Jatropha Curcus.* Under instruction of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), has opened a bio-diesel information centre, which inter alia, also disseminates information on non-edible oilseed bearing plants like *Jatropha Curcus.*

The State Governments take measures for promoting crops and plantations according to their own priorities. However, any assistance by the Central Government to the States for the proposed National Mission on Bio-diesel, which inter alia proposes large scale cultivation *of Jatropha Curcus,* would become due only after the proposed National Mission receives approval in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Government.

Demand for petrol and diesel in Kerala

2300. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Oil Companies allotted a large number of petrol outlets in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) whether these oil companies made any study of the total demand of petrol and diesel in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what was the annual increase in sales of petrol and diesel by these oil companies in Kerala during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) have commissioned 442 retail outlets (ROs) in the state of Kerala during the last three years, *i.e.,* from 2002-03 to 2004-05.

(b) and (c) Before opening the retail outlets, the OMGs conduct feasibility studies of the locations which include assessment of demand for petrol and diesel in the area in question. Details of demand assessments and actual sales in any RO in any State, including Kerala, would be available with the Directors (Marketing) of the oil marketing company concerned.

(d) Percentage growth in sale of petrol and diesel by the public sector OMCs in the State of Kerala during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Growth in sale of	
	Petrol	Diesel
2002-03	10.0%	2.0%
2003-04	8.3%	4.7%
2004-05	3.2%*	1.3%

*Provisional

LPG filling stations in Bangalore

2301. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG filling stations in Bangalore City;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government had planned to set up 34 LPG filling stations;

(c) what is the actual requirement of LPG filling stations required considering the number of vehicles in Bangalore; and

(d) what is the role of various oil companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) As on 1.6.2005, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 15 Auto LPG Dispensing Stations (ALDS) in Bangalore city besides one ALDS being operated by M/s. ELF Gas, a private company.